361 The Committee of the first seminar recognised that, at the
652 present time, the financial provisions for the nomadic tribes
648 are relatively inadequate and submitted the recommendation that a higher percentage of the budget of each State should be allocated for the social and economic needs of the nomadic popula-
648 tion.[1] The same Committee recommended that:
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> "the policy of the Arab States should aim at the settlement of a number of tribes by distributing them in the arable areas owned by the states and allotting small-holdings to individuals. In this connection the Committee refers to the existence especially in the Syrian Gezirah and Iraq, of extensive areas for the application of agricultural projects which should be based on the most up-to-date techniques of agriculture." [2]

CHAPTER XIII

361 Conclusions and Summary of the Settlement Problems

Nomadism has been chiefly responsible for the decline of agricultural prosperity in the Middle East.

361 The Bedouin tribes have always, through social and economic
X166 assimilation, become absorbed by the settled population. The process of sedentarisation, the gradual transition from the nomadic mode of life to a settled existence, is a sociological phenomenon, inseparably connected with the history of Bedouin migrations from the desert into the fertile lands on its borders. In the past few decades the pace of the evolutionary process of transition has been considerably quickened under the impact of economic, social and political stimuli, mutually interlocked and overlapping.

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1. UN Social Welfare Seminar, 1950, p. 36
2. ibid., p. 37